

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03968 291628Z

41

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 291503Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8668

S E C R E T AMMAN 3968

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE,SY, XF

SUVJECT: TALK WITH KING - LEBANON

REF: AMMAN 3964, 3963, 3962, 3965

1. KING WAS IN TOUCH WITH ME LATE IN DAY JULY 29. HE SAID THAT HE WANTED PASS ON TO US THE LATEST INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. HE INDICATED HE HAD AGAIN BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ASAD.

2. KING SAID THAT SYRIANS HAD PASSED ON PAPER (AMMAN 3964) TO LEBANESE PARTIES. THEY HAD NOW RECEIVED LEBANESE REPLY. LEBANESE SAID THAT THE COULD NOT OBJECT TO SYRIA WORKING OUT AN ARRANGEMENT WITH PALESTINIANS, BUT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT COULD NOT BIND THEM. IN EFFECT KING SAID, LEBANESE INSISTED THAT THEY BE PARTY TO WORKING OUT ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD CONTROL OR AFFECT THEIR FUTURE.

3. KING FURTHER REPORTED THAT ASAD SAID HE AGREED WITH LEBANESE ON THIS POINT AND HAD GIVEN THEM ASSURANCES THAT NOTHING WOULD BE REGKARDED AS SET FOR THEM WITHOUT THEIR FULL PARTICIPATION AND AGREEMENT.

4. I ASKED KING IF "LEBANESE PARTIES" WERE THOSE WITH WHOM SYRIANS HAD REGULARLY BEEN IN TOUCH -- CHRISTIANS AND RIGHTISTS -- AND HE SAID YES. I ALSO ASKED HIM IF FRANJIEH HAD BEEN CONSULTED AND HE SAID YES ALSO.

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5. KING SAID THAT GIVEN THIS STAND BY LEBANESE HE DOES NOT EXPECT

ANYTHING TO HAPPEN QUICKLY.

6. KING DID NOT REPORT ANY REPLY FROM PALESTINIANS ON ARRANGEMENTS
WORKED OUT YESTERDAY AND I THEREFORE ASSUME THEY HAVE NOT YET
BEEN BACK IN TOUCH WITH SYRIANS ON THE "AGREEMENT".

7 I THANKED KING FOR STAYING IN TOUCH AND TOLD HIM IN RESPONSE
TO HIS INQUIRY TO ME THAT I HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY REACTION
FROM WASHINGTON TO THE INFORMATION PASSED ON LAST EVENING.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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